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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 007//

TO GOMPERT/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

UNCLAS VIA BLACK PATCH WH50838

TOHAK 007

MAY 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

GEORGE C. WILSON WRITES THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY RAISED SHARPLY ITS CASUALTY FIGURES FOR THE MAYAGUEZ RESCUE, DISCLOSING THAT FIVE AMERICAN SERVICEMEN HAD BEEN KILLED AND 70 TO 80 OTHERS WOUNDED. IN ADDITION, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SAID THAT 16 SERVICEMEN ARE STILL MISSING. (A-1)

IN THE SECOND OF THREE ARTICLES, LOU CANNON DISCUSSES THE RESHAPING OF THE WHITE HOUSE BY DONALD RUMSFELD. (A-1)

DON OBERDORFER SAYS THAT SINO-JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS TO CEMENT RELATIONS WITH A "PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY" HAVE BEEN DEAD-LOCKED FOR MONTHS OVER A SINGLE WORD. FAR FROM BEING A SEMANTIC ARGUMENT, THE ISSUE GOES TO THE HEART OF AN IMPORTANT QUESTION -- JAPAN'S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH CHINA'S ARCH RIVAL TO THE NORTH, THE SOVIET UNION. (A-1)

MURRAY MARDER SAYS THAT IN TALKS OPENING IN VIENNA TODAY, YOU AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO ARE EXPECTED TO EXPLORE A COMPROMISE TO BREAK A STALEMATE IN THE STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. THE DOMINANT SUBJECTS ARE THE SLOWED-DOWN STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS AND THE CONTINUING THREAT OF WARFARE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. (A-1)

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PRESIDENT SADAT DECLARED YESTERDAY THAT HE WILL BE SPEAKING FOR AN ARAB WORLD UNITED AGAINST ISRAEL IN HIS UPCOMING TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FORD. SADAT INDICATED HE WAS EXPECTING A CLEAR DEFINITION OF U.S. POLICY FROM MR. FORD, THE OUTCOME OF WASHINGTON'S "REASSESSMENT" OF MIDDLE EAST VIEWS FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF YOUR PERSONAL MEDIATION EFFORT. HE ALSO WANTS TO FIND OUT THE EFFECT OF U.S. DEFEATS IN INDOCHINA ON A POSSIBLE AMERICAN ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WHETHER YOU CAN STILL BE OF ANY USE AS A MEDIATOR. (A-1)

JOHN GOSHKO WRITES THAT THE ARAB WORLD'S ATTEMPT TO USE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS A FORUM FOR STRIKING AGAINST ISRAEL -- A CAMPAIGN THAT ALREADY HAS EMBROILED UNESCO IN A MAJOR FUROR -- MAY SOON BE EXTENDED TO A COUPLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS' OTHER SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. (A-7)

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SENT A NOTE TODAY TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING REGRET FOR THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THAI BASES AS A TAKEOFF-POINT FOR THE RESCUE OF THE CREW OF THE FREIGHTER MAYAGUEZ. THE NOTE STOPPED SHORT OF THE APOLOGY DEMANDED BY THE BANGKOK GOVERNMENT. (A-1)

GEORGE MCAUTHUR SAYS THAT IN THE MONTHS JUST BEFORE THE AMERICAN EVACUATION OF SAIGON, A CLOAK-AND-DAGGER AIR WAR WENT ON OVER NORTH VIETNAM, INVOLVING U.S. SR-71 SPY FLIGHTS AND SOVIET-SUPPLIED ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILES. (A-10)

SOUTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN THI BINH HAS BRIEFED ENVOYS OF NINE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND RECEIVED THEIR ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT IN EXPANDING THE REVOLUTION, THE VIETCONG RADIO REPORTED YESTERDAY. (A-11)

BERNARD KAPLAN REPORTS, PARADOXICALLY, ONE REASON THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING MAY HAVE REFUSED TO ATTEND NEXT MONTH'S NATO SUMMIT MEETING IN BRUSSELS IS THAT FRANCE CURRENTLY IS COLLABORATING MORE ACTIVELY WITH NATO THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE WITHDRAWING FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE ALLIANCE A DECADE AGO. (A-14)

THE OFFICIAL SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER PRAVDA ATTACKED CHINESE DEPUTY PREMIER TENG HSIAD-PING YESTERDAY FOR HIS SUPPORT FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN UNITY, EXPRESSED IN PARIS DURING TENG'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE LAST WEEK. (A-11)

JOSEPH ALSOP WRITES THAT IN THE INNER GROUP OF AMERICAN POLICY-MAKERS, THE POST-VIETNAM REASSESSMENT IS NATURALLY PROVING BOTH INTENSE AND PAINFUL. THE PAIN ARISES MAINLY FROM THE SOMBERNESS OF THE CENTRAL QUESTION BEING DEBATED. NO ONE HAS PUT IT

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QUIT THAT WAY, BUT THE QUESTION CAN BE BEST SUMMED UP AS FOLLOWS: CAN YOU HAVE ANOTHER HITLER-TIME WITHOUT A HITLER? (FULL TEXT BEING SENT AS TOSEC)

EVANS AND NOVAK WRITE THAT HIGH PENTAGON OFFICIALS, BACKED BY THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, ARGUED STRONGLY DURING PRESIDENT FORD'S SECRET DELIBERATIONS WITH THE NSC FOR ROCK-BOTTOM MINIMUM USE OF U.S. MILITARY POWER -- LESS THAN THE PRESIDENT FINALLY ORDERED -- IN THE RESCUE OF THE PIRATED MAYAGUEZ. WHETHER YOU FAVORED IT IS NOT KNOWN. BUT THE PRESIDENT VETOED IT AS PROVOCATIVE. THUS, MR. FORD ASSERTED HIS OWN WILL IN A CRISIS THAT, WITH ONLY A LITTLE MISMANAGEMENT OR A BIT OF BAD LUCK, COULD HAVE ESCALATED TO EXTREMELY DANGEROUS PROPORTIONS. AS ONE ADMINISTRATION INSIDER TOLD US: "DON'T THINK THIS WAS A KISSINGER OR SCHLESINGER EXTRAVAGANZA. IT WAS PURE FORD." (A-23)

CLAYTON FRITCHIE WRITES THAT WHEN THE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS TURNED THUMBS DOWN ON MORE MILLIONS TO PROLONG THE WAR IN VIETNAM, YOU, IN A SCORNFUL AND DISAPPROVING TONE OF VOICE, RHETORICALLY ASKED, "WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE WE?" FRITCHIE BELIEVES THAT WHEN THE PUBLIC'S IMMEDIATE ANXIETIES OVER THE REFUGEES ARE DISSIPATED, THE VIETNAMESE WILL BE MADE WELCOME IN THE U.S. AND THEY WILL BE SUPPORTED UNTIL THEY CAN GET ON THEIR OWN FEET. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION DID NOT HELP ITS CAUSE BY SCORNFULLY DISMISSING THE PUBLIC'S FIRST TROUBLED REACTION. (A-23)

DEMONSTRATORS ROUGHED UP THE SECURITY CHIEF OF EMBASSY LISBON YESTERDAY AS HE TRIED TO ENTER THE BUILDING. HE WAS HUNDLED INTO AN ARMY JEEP THAT WAS THEN SURROUNDED BY SOLDIERS BRANDISHING MACHINE GUNS. THE SECURITY CHIEF, WAYNE COMBS, WAS HELD IN THE JEEP, WEDGED BETWEEN ARMED PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS, FOR 30 MINUTES. HE EVENTUALLY GOT INTO THE EMBASSY UNHARMED. (A-24)

JACK ANDERSON'S ARTICLE SAYS PRESIDENT FORD, WHO IS ABOUT TO STEP INTO YOUR SHOES AND RESUME PERSONAL DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HAS BEEN TOLD FORCIBLY BY ADVISERS THAT NO ARAB-ISRAELI AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT SOVIET SUPPORT. HE IS OPTIMISTIC, HOWEVER, THAT HE CAN SELL THE KREMLIN ON A SOVIET-U.S. SETTLEMENT. (C-23)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

YOUR PICTURE APPEARS ON THE FRONT PAGE AS YOU PREPARE TO DEPART ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE FOR VIENNA.

LESLIE GELB SAYS THE U.S. WAS CONSIDERING USING B-52 BOMBERS AGAINST THE CAMBODIAN MAINLAND AFTER THE SEIZURE OF THE FREIGHTER

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MAYAGUEZ LAST WEEK IF THE CARRIER CORAL SEA HAD NOT ARRIVED IN THE AREA BY WEDNESDAY, ACCORDING TO A TOP U.S. OFFICIAL. (1)

JUAN DE ONIS WRITES THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVED YESTERDAY A FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN OF STUPENDOUS PROPORTIONS CALLING FOR A \$140-BILLION INVESTMENT. (1)

A SPECIAL TO THE TIMES STATES THAT U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS YESTERDAY RECEIVED THE FIRST WORD IN 36 HOURS FROM AMERICANS CONFINED IN THE SOUTHERN LAOTIAN CITY OF SAVANNAKHET. THE MESSAGE, FROM SANFORD J. STONE, DIRECTOR FOR THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THERE, SAID THAT ALL WERE WELL BUT THAT CONTACT WOULD BE SPOTTY BECAUSE THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS WHO CONTROL THE TOWN ARE ALLOWING THE AMERICANS ONLY INTERMITTENT ACCESS TO THE SOLE AMERICAN RADIO TRANSMITTER. (2)

PRINCE SIHANOUK AND PRINCESS MONIQUE OF CAMBODIA LEFT THERE YESTERDAY BY SPECIAL TRAIN FOR A VISIT TO NORTH KOREA, THE CHINESE PRESS AGENCY HSIHUA REPORTED. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE PRINCE SIHANOUK EXPRESSED HIS TOTAL SUPPORT OF THE CAMBODIAN POSITION IN THE SEIZURE OF THE AMERICAN MERCHANT SHIP MAYAGUEZ IN A TELEGRAM SENT TO THE KHMER ROUGE LEADER IN PHNOM PENH. (2)

A SPECIAL TO THE TIMES REPORTS THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF GREECE AND TURKEY WENT INTO THEIR SECOND DAY OF TALKS YESTERDAY IN ROME, MARKING THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN THEIR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. LATER THEY VOICED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT TENSION BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES MIGHT BE EASED. THE TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO END TODAY. THE CYPRUS DISPUTE AND RIGHTS TO PROSPECT FOR OFFSHORE OIL IN THE AEGEAN SEA ARE THE MAIN TOPICS. (7)

ANOTHER SPECIAL TO THE TIMES REPORTS THAT PREMIER RABIN APPOINTED A SPECIAL ADVISER FOR INTELLIGENCE MATTERS YESTERDAY IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF SUCH BLUNDERS AS THE MISTAKEN EVALUATIONS OF ARAB STRATEGY JUST BEFORE THE 1973 WAR. MR. RABIN NAMED MAJOR GENERAL REHAVAN ZEEVI, WHO WAS A GENERAL STAFF OFFICER DURING THE 1967 WAR, WHEN MR. RABIN WAS CHIEF OF STAFF. BOTH LEFT THE ARMY BEFORE THE 1973 WAR AND INCURRED BLAME FOR THE MILITARY SHORTCOMINGS IN 1973. (11)

UPI REPORTS THAT DEMONSTRATORS WAVING RED FLAGS AND SHOUTING ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS GATHERED OUTSIDE THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LISBON YESTERDAY. THE OUTBREAK OCCURRED AS PORTUGAL'S LEFTIST MILITARY LEADERS PREPARED TO MEET TO DISCUSS CREATING A CUBAN-STYLE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT AND A REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL TO TRY SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS ACCUSED OF POLITICAL CRIMES. ABOUT 50 DEMONSTRATORS VANDALIZED THE PARKED CARS AND PASTED POSTERS ON THE WALLS AS THE POLICE WATCHED. (15)

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TO HAVE TROUBLE, THOUGH, IS IN ENCOURAGING A DIALOG BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL. (A-4)

CHARLES YOST DISCUSSES THE ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. "DEFENSE PERIMETERS" NOW THAT WE HAVE ABANDONED INDOCHINA. HE CONTENTS THAT THE QUESTION AS TO WHERE THE "PERIMETER" SHOULD NOW LIE REFLECTS A NATURAL ANXIETY BY THE MILITARY TO KNOW WHAT, IN THE POST-VIETNAM SITUATION, THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE PREPARED TO DEFEND. SIGNIFICANTLY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE PRECISE ON THIS SCORE AT A TIME WHEN SOME OF OUR ALLIES ARE WONDERING HOW RELIABLE OUR COMMITMENTS ARE. ONE RULE OF THUMB WOULD BE THAT, AT THIS MOMENT OF APPREHENSION AND REASSESSMENT, WE SHOULD UNEQUIVOCALLY CONFIRM THOSE COMMITMENTS MADE BY DUE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. (A-11)

GARRY WILLS SAYS THERE IS NOTHING MORE INTERESTING ABOUT OUR COLLAPSE AND WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM THAN THE INJUNCTION THAT WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO THINK ABOUT IT. GOD KNOWS, WE THOUGHT VERY LITTLE ABOUT OUR ENTRY INTO THAT COUNTRY AND WHAT THOUGHTS WE HAD IN THE COURSE OF OUR ENGAGEMENT WERE MUDDIED BY SLOGANS, DECEPTION, AND CONFLICT. AT THE END, WE FLED (ALMOST TOO LATE) FROM "PEACE WITH HONOR" WE PRETENDED TO BELIEVE IN. IF WE ARE NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT NOW, THEN WE HAVE FORECLOSED ALL THOUGHT ON THE SUBJECT. (A-11)
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